GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
EARTH SCIENCES
LOK SABHA

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:1076
ANSWERED ON:23.11.2007
RESEARCH ON HIMALAYAN GLACIERS
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Will the Minister of EARTH SCIENCES be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government has conducted any study on the climatic change in the Himalayan Glacier;

(a) if so, the outcome thereof;

(b) the fund allocated and utilized for the research on Himalayan Glaciers during the each of the last three years;

(c) whether the Government proposes to increase the fund allocation for the above purpose; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

Answer

MINISTER OF SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY AND MINISTER OF EARTH SCIENCES (SHRI KAPIL SIBAL)

a) Yes Sir, A number of glaciers have been taken up for monitoring studies in the different parts of Indian Himalaya by several Government agencies like Wadia institute of Himalayan Geology (WIHG), Dehradun, Geological Survey of India(GSI), Snow and Avalanche study Establishment (SASE), Chandigarh etc.

b) The research on Himalayan glaciers shows that most of the Himalayan glaciers are receding gradually due to the orographic and climatic variability. A number of weather stations have been set up to collect real time weather observations at different altitudes in the glacier areas of the Himalaya to assess and evaluate the climate change.

c) − e) The amount spent for research on Himalayan Glaciers during the last three years is given below:

2004-2005 Rs.1,11,10,689/-

2005-2006 Rs.74,48,000/-

2006-2007 Rs.1,16,00,000/-

2007-2008 Rs.2,21,40,000/-

The Himalayan Glaciology is a continuing programme of Department of Science & Technology. In addition to the need of funds for on-going activities, the Department of Science & Technology (DST) is in the process of establishing a National Centre for Himalayan Glaciology as well as few Regional Centres for Himalayan Glaciology. Accordingly, DST proposed to increase the budget estimate for Himalayan Glaciology Programme during the 11th Five Year Plan.